Statement by Congressman Robert T. Matsui
On Recent Economic Reports from the Bush Administration
Friday, October 03, 2003

"The past few weeks have brought dismal news for America's working families, but absolutely no help from the Bush Administration. These new reports prove that ordinary Americans face increasing health and economic insecurity.

"Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the number of unemployed Americans grew by 68,000 in September, bringing the number of people who have lost their job since President Bush took office to 3 million. 9 million Americans are now on the unemployment rolls – and that doesn't even include the 400,000 who have simply given up hope of finding a new job.

"Earlier this week, the Census Bureau issued a shocking report on the number of Americans who lack health insurance. Over the past year, 2.4 million Americans lost their health insurance and since President Bush took office, the number of uninsured Americans has climbed 5.7% to 43.6 million people. In addition, 75 million Americans lacked health insurance for at least part of the last year. The problem is much worse than it appears at first glance.

"In late September, the Census Bureau also reported the number of Americans living in poverty increased from 11.7% to 12.1% in 2002 alone. 34.6 million people now live below the poverty line, including 12 million children. And under the Bush Administration, median household income has declined for the second year in a row.

"Since the day he took office, the President's only economic strategy has been tax cuts for the rich -- and then more tax cuts for the rich. But this pattern of fiscal irresponsibility has done nothing to create jobs, ensure access to quality health care or provide economic security for America's working families. They've only made things worse."

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